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PATENT  
Docket No. C 2745 PCT/US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

RE: PCT/EP2003/013563  
International Filing Date December 2, 2003  
Priority Date Claimed: December 10, 2002  
Applicant: Gutsche, et al.  
Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING LINEAR OR BRANCHED FATTY  
ACID ESTERS BY MEANS OF HETEROGENEOUSLY CATALYSED  
REACTIVE RECTIFICATION WITH AN UPSTREAM REACTOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Prior to the calculation of fees and examination of the above-identified national stage application pursuant to the accompanying submission under 35 U.S.C. §371, please amend the International Application transmitted by the International Bureau, without prejudice, as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 5 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this Preliminary Amendment.